



English River Watershed Management Authority Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2015
6:30 PM
Parkside Activity Center
525 13th Street, Wellman

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Ryan Schlabaugh called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

2. Introductions

Board Members in attendance: Ryan Schlabaugh (Chair – City of Kalona), Jack Seward, Jr. (Vice Chair – County of Washington), Steve Berger (Wellman Farm Bureau), Nick Pacha (City of Wellman)

Member Representatives in Attendance: Michael Berg (County of Keokuk), Gary Bates (Keokuk County SWCD), Bill Poch (City of Riverside), Bob Schneider (City of Riverside)

Others in attendance: Ben Curtis (Watershed Intern), Nathan Young (Iowa Flood Center), Mark Kennett (City of Grinnell), Marilyn Kennett (City of Grinnell)

3. Approval of minutes (Discussion/Action)

The board approved the February 19th, 2015 meeting minutes.

4. Guest Speaker(s)

- a. Nathan Young, Associate Director, Iowa Flood Center.

Young presented on the Iowa Flood Center's website "Iowa Flood Information System" and "Water Quality Information System." Young gave an overview of the Flood Center, provided a demonstration of the IFIS software, and concluded with a discussion about the WQIS, which is still under development at this time.

5. Updates (Discussion)

a. IDNR Contract - Update

Ryan Schlabaugh reported on the Iowa DNR contract that is expiring at the end of September. Final project reporting materials from the ERWMA are due at this time. This includes the final Improvement and Resiliency Plan.

b. Watershed Improvement Plan – Update

Ryan Schlabaugh and Ben Curtis reported on the status of the Improvement Plan. September 14th the plan was opened for public comment and will close on August 14th. During this time, the public, including the Board of Directors and Community and Technical Advisory teams, are encouraged to submit comments about the plan for final revisions to be made. Watershed staff persons will hand-deliver printed copies to all members and organizations associated with the watershed, including non-members in early October. The Board will meeting via tele-conference to adopt the plan once the final revisions are made.

c. City of Wellman – Sponsored Project Proposal – Update

Nick Pacha, City Administrator of Wellman, discussed a recent field visit with a water resources engineer from HR Green, Amy Bouska and Wayne Peterson with the Iowa City NRCS, and Ben Curtis with the ERWMA. The City of Wellman will be submitting a proposal for roughly \$90,000 to the SRF for urban conservation practices for water quality improvements. A few options include: permeable pavement around the Wellman Band Shell, soil quality restoration in the Parkside greenspace, or the creation of bioswales in the Wellman golf course. The ERWMA will write a letter of support for the City of Wellman when the proposal is drafted.

d. WQI Proposal (Fall 2015) – Update

Upcoming WQI request-for-proposals will likely be mid-September. Watershed staff and a consultant will cooperatively draft a grant proposal and submit for WQI implementation funds.

6. Financial Report (Discussion)

a. DNR Planning Grant

Total DNR grant received was \$149,995. Grant balance to date is \$22,979. Reimbursements to date total \$11,091 with the City of Kalona as the fiscal agent in a deficit of \$15,925, which is not an issue with the remaining grant balance.

The ERWMA current cash balance is \$8,215.98. The ERWMA is awaiting a final quote from the Iowa Soybean Association for final project assistance.

The board approved the financial statement as presented.

7. Funding (Discussion)

a. Watershed Coordinator position

Jody Bailey as the Watershed Coordinator will now go to an hourly-pay schedule and work part time during maternity leave. Ben Curtis as the Watershed Planning Intern will begin working part-time (approximately 10 hours / week) once graduate school begins on August 24th.

b. Implementation Grants

Ryan Schlabaugh opened the discussion about several funding opportunities available to the ERWMA moving forward. First, the ERWMA will submit a proposal to the upcoming WQI round, which is still to-be-announced. Second, a meeting is set for Friday 28th at the Iowa County Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss a large pool of statewide funding from HUD. Ryan Schlabaugh and Ben Curtis will attend on behalf of the ERWMA and will support Dr. Larry Weber from the Iowa Flood Center. Third, the ERWMA is involved in the proposal of a McKnight Foundation grant in cooperation with the Iowa Learning Farms. Fourth, the ERWMA is involved with both Kalona and Wellman SRF projects.

8. Announcements

- a. Reminder of 2015 Quarterly Board Meetings
 - Nov 19th, 6:30 PM – Location TBA

Ryan Schlabaugh provided a reminder of the ERWMA’s meeting schedule for 2015, and meeting times.

9. Adjournment.

Chairperson

Date

Minutes taken by B. Curtis